



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,976	12/08/2003	David Tarasenko	P508 0003	1098
720	7590	12/08/2004	EXAMINER	
OYEN, WIGGS, GREEN & MUTALA			ALVO, MARC S	
480 - THE STATION			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
601 WEST CORDOVA STREET			1731	
VANCOUVER, BC V6B 1G1				
CANADA				
DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/728,976	TARASENKO <i>TA</i>
	Examiner Steve Alvo	Art Unit 1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3-04; 5-04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 61-63 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PRIOR.

PRIOR teaches contacting all forms of lignocellulosic material, e.g. wood chips or grassy materials (column 5, lines 37-58), with nitric acid impregnating liquor, heating the liquor during impregnation to a temperature of 70 °C or below and then heating the lignocellulosic material to delignify the material by heating to a preferred temperature of 85 °C to 95 °C (column 8, lines 1-5); e.g. above the boiling point of the nitric acid; wherein the nitric acid concentration is about 10% to 40% by weight, e.g. 9% nitrate concentration by weight of wood (column 3, lines 30-35), alkali extracting the lignocellulosic material to solubilize the lignin with NaOH or KOH (column 12, lines 25-53), separating the lignin from the material by precipitation (column 16, lines 45-50) and removing the black liquor from the pulp (column 13, lines 33-36). It would have been obvious to remove any liquor not absorbed by the wood between the two heating stages as such is shown in Figures 1 and 1a, e.g. draining between each of the heating stages. See PRIOR, column 9, line 49 for using an atmospheric pressure. See, column 10, lines 65-68 for a boiling point of 86 °C for the nitric acid solution.

Claims 54-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PRIOR as applied to claim 61 above, and further in view of TORGRT et al.

TORGRT teaches fermenting sugars obtained from lignocellulosic material to produce alcohols (column 1, lines 46-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

that any sugars remaining in the pulping liquor of PRIOR could be fermented and converted into sugar in the manner taught by TORGET et al.

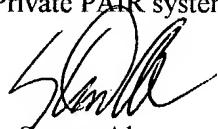
Claims 1-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PRIOR as applied to claim 61 above, and further in view of ROWE et al.

ROWE teaches recovering pulping liquor by separating the lignin from the liquor and distilling off the volatile acids during the black liquor recovery process. It would have been obvious that the black liquor could have been distilled to separate the volatile organic acids during the liquor recovery in the manner taught by PRIOR.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Alvo whose telephone number is 571-272-1185. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:45 AM - 2:15 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steve Alvo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731